

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the final Office Action dated August 1, 2008 in which claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-17, and 21-25 were pending and were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 12, 14, and 17 have been amended and claims 13, 15, and 16 have been canceled. Further, new claims 26-29 have been added. In view of the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10-17, and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Crawshaw et al. (U.S. Publ. No. 2001/0042032, hereinafter "Crawshaw"). Further, claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawshaw in view of Lesk (U.S. Pat. No. 7,249,073).

Crawshaw discloses a system for capturing and processing data in a server environment. As illustrated in FIG. 1A, computers 80 are connected to a web server 50 via internet 90. The user interacts with a computer 80 to enter data, which is provided through the web server 50 to an application server 30 for processing of the data. As illustrated in FIG. 1A, the application server 30 includes special purpose software 60 that provides application programs within the application server 30 for communicating in the server environment, storing and receiving data, creating and administering accounts, etc. (see paragraphs [0013], [0044]). Further, as illustrated in FIG. 2 of Crawshaw, a web browser 110 provides web pages or forms that are rendered on the user's computer 80 by the user's web browser 110 (see paragraph [0049]). The web pages are provided to the web browser 110 based on user interaction with the web pages. When data is submitted by the user through the web server, the application server 30, which runs the special purpose software, processes the user-submitted data (see paragraph [0050]). As described in paragraph [0050] of Crawshaw, within the application layer 130 (i.e., application server 30) an event loop 132 and session management 134 carry out the data processing functionality. The business objects 138 reside in the application layer 130 on application server 30 to process the data. In this manner, the business objects provide ad hoc

data processing within the application server 30 and define and invoke the functions to be performed for each set of data received at the application server. Paragraph [0052] of Crawshaw discusses business object 138 manipulation of data into the database layer.

In contrast to Crawshaw, aspects of concepts described in the present specification provide forms containing calls to a services API for processing data in the form. For instance, in one embodiment described on page 3, lines 5-19 of the present specification, a form can include data fields for user data entry, an object adapted to submit the web form when completed by the user, and embedded server controls adapted to invoke business rules upon submission by the user. Submitted forms are processed using a services API according to the invoked business rules. In another instance described in the present specification on page 12, line 27 – page 13, line 10, a form can be configured to call a services API to implement and sequence business rules to process data in the form. Using embedded calls to an API to process form data provides added flexibility. This is in contrast to ad hoc data processing of forms using special purpose software residing within an application layer, such as that disclosed in Crawshaw (see also, Applicant's specification page 1, line 3 – page 2, line 20).

With respect to independent claim 1, a system for capturing cost information over a network and for processing the information into a project accounting system is provided. Claim 1 recites a project accounting system, a user interface provided as a form comprising fields for data entry by the user, a button for electronic submission of the form, and embedded calls in the form. Claim 1 also recites a services application program interface (API) adapted to invoke transactions with the project accounting system for processing data contained within the submitted form. The embedded calls in the form comprise calls to the services API that are automatically invoked by the form when the form is submitted by the user. The calls to the services API invoked by the form instantiate business rules for processing data contained in the submitted form into the project accounting system. Although Crawshaw discloses processing information contained in forms, the data processing functionality of Crawshaw is performed using special purpose software residing within an application server 30 (See Fig. 1A). As discussed above, the application layer illustrated in Fig. 2 includes event loops and session

management for processing the data. Further, as described in paragraph [0050] of Crawshaw, interface objects generate code that is communicated to the user's browser and displayed on the user's computer and can encapsulate the functionality of forms. However, Crawshaw does not teach or suggest embedded calls in a form that are automatically invoked by the form when the form is submitted by the user. Moreover, Crawshaw also does not teach or suggest that embedded calls in a submitted form instantiate business rules for processing data contained in the submitted form. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is neither taught nor suggested by Crawshaw and is in allowable form.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to recite receiving user data, invoking the object associated with the requested form to submit the requested form upon completion of the requested form, and, in response, utilizing the server controls embedded in the submitted form to invoke the business rules. Further, independent claim 10 has also been amended to recite processing the user data contained in the submitted form including interacting with the accounting database according to the user data contained in the submitted form and the invoked business rules and querying the accounting database according to the user data based on the invoked business rules to return a value for display in a form within a window of the browser. Applicant respectfully submits that Crawshaw does not teach or suggest a form that includes embedded controls for invoking business rules upon submission by the user or processing at a submitted form with a services API according to business rules that are invoked using embedded controls in the form. Moreover, Applicant respectfully notes that Crawshaw also does not teach or suggest invoking business rules using embedded controls in a form to query an accounting database to return a value as recited in claim 10. Instead, Crawshaw discusses providing interface objects that generate code for display on a user's computer. While the interface object can include the functionality of a form, Crawshaw does not teach or suggest that a form includes embedded controls or that a business rule is invoked by embedded controls in a form to query a database. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 10 is neither taught nor suggested by Crawshaw and is in allowable form.

Independent claim 17 has been amended to recite “wherein each of the web part forms contain embedded calls to the services API that are invoked upon submission of the web part form to invoke transactions with the accounting system to process the user input into the accounting system.” Further, as claimed “the transactions with the accounting system invoked by the embedded calls contained in the web part forms comprise initiating an approval process for the submitted web part form and associating the user data contained in the submitted form with entities in the accounting system.” Applicant respectfully submits that Crawshaw does not teach or suggest embedded calls in a form or initiating an approval process by invoking embedded calls as claimed. In the rejection of claim 17, the Office Action asserts that paragraph [0050] of Crawshaw discloses an approval process. Applicant respectfully disagrees and notes that this section of Crawshaw simply discloses that an interface object can be utilized to display an interface on a user’s computer. The business object can encapsulate functionality of a form for data. In this manner, Crawshaw simply states that a form can be displayed on a user’s computer but does not teach or suggest embedded calls in a form or that transactions invoked by embedded calls include initiating an approval process for a submitted form as claimed. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 17 is neither taught nor suggested by Crawshaw and is in allowable form.

Further, it is submitted that related dependent claims 2-4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, and 18-29 are also in allowable form at least based upon their relation to independent claims 1, 10, and 17, discussed above. Additionally, it is believed that at least some of these dependent claims recite features that are neither taught nor suggested by the cited references. For example, dependent claim 27 recites “wherein the transactions invoked by the embedded calls contained in the timesheet form implement the business rules to provide the timesheet form to an administrator for authorization of the user data contained in the timesheet form and at least one of deletion of the timesheet form, modification of the timesheet form, and return of the timesheet form to the user.” Crawshaw does disclose embedded calls in a form and does not teach or suggest implementing business rules using embedded calls to provide authorization, deletion, modification, or return of the form as claimed.

Further, dependent claim 28 recites "wherein the embedded calls to the services API invoked by the form define transactions with the project accounting system including querying the project accounting system based on the instantiated business rules to return a value for display in the user interface." As similarly discussed above, Crawshaw does not teach or suggest an embedded call in a form for querying an accounting system to return a value as claimed.

Dependent claim 19 recites "wherein the form comprises a timesheet form and the embedded calls in the timesheet form instantiate an approval process for approving the timesheet form and storing data from the timesheet form to the project accounting system." As similarly discussed above, Crawshaw does not teach or suggest an embedded call in a form for instantiating an approval process.

It is noted that these are examples of dependent claims that are believed to be independently patentable.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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